

Dear Hon. Ahmed Hassan,

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

RE: Denial of Temporary Visa for Esther Joyce Naisola Kisoso application

I trust this letter reaches you well. My name is Silantoi Kisoso – I am a dual citizen of Canada and Kenya. I am writing to you about an important matter related to the refusal of a Canadian Temporary Resident Visitor Visa application number [REDACTED] for Esther Joyce Naisola Kisoso that was refused on April 11, 2019.

Canada has been my home for the past 18 years. However, it is unfortunate that my family hasn't been granted the opportunity to visit me and my 7-year-old daughter in Canada during this time. Over the last 10 years, my two sisters have applied for and have been refused a Temporary Resident Visitor Visa six times because of a provision in **Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, paragraph 179 (b) that supports a highly subjective and problematic visitor visa application outcome for family members of many immigrant families**. In many instances, our fate is sealed before a decision is made. This has been my experience and for others that I personally know; who have more serious circumstances such as death or critical illness, and need their family by their side for support in Canada. I write to you as one family but my situation or concerns are not isolated or unique.

In the most recent application number [REDACTED] for Temporary Resident Visitor Visa for my sister, the reason for refusal given are:

1. "I am not satisfied that you will leave Canada at the end of your stay as a temporary resident, as stipulated in paragraph 179(b) of the IRPR, based on the purpose of your visit.
2. I am not satisfied that you will leave Canada at the end of your stay as a temporary resident, as stipulated in paragraph 179(b) of the IRPR, based on your family ties in Canada and in your country of residence.
3. I am not satisfied that you will leave Canada at the end of your stay as a temporary resident, as stipulated in paragraph 179(b) of the IRPR, based on your travel history."

The above reasons for refusal seem arbitrary and tenuous. In response to the Canadian High Commission in Kenya's refusal of my sisters Temporary Resident Visitor Visa, I would like to share my thoughts on the decisions.

- For reason #1, as a citizen and resident of Canada, the resounding message on Canada's family reunification policy is lacking here. The purpose of my sister's visit is purely to spend time together and to allow my daughter to meet her aunt, to share and show her our life and to visit and see some of the tourist attractions in Manitoba and to attend my cousins' wedding in BC on May 18, 2019.
- For reason #2, even though my family has ties in Canada; It is only through those ties that she would be interested in coming to Canada in the first place as a visitor however, she also has strong family, social and economic ties to Kenya that would overcome any concerns that the visa officer had about her likelihood of returning back to Kenya regardless of her ties in Canada since she has her home and employment in Kenya.
- For reason #3, this is a level of profiling that is unfair and not helpful to anyone wanting to establish a travel history. My family are Kenyan citizens and as such, need visas as a travel requirement. This is true for most African countries as well. It is true that my sister has not travelled much. She has lived in Egypt while my father was a diplomat posted there in the late 1990s but otherwise her travel has primarily been in East Africa where Kenyans do not need a visa to travel.

My family has no desire to migrate to Canada and if they ever do, they will follow the required channels in seeking permission to reside here. I can guarantee you, IRCC and the Canadian High Commission in Kenya that my sister will honour her visa obligations and return back to Kenya after her authorised period of stay has ended.

It is my prayer that your office will follow-up on my sincere and candid plea for a reconsideration and give my sister entry to Canada for 5 weeks starting May 10 to June 15, 2019. If any additional documents are required to strengthen my sister's application, it would be helpful if I could have more clarity on this so we can do our due diligence in giving Canada the assurance and confidence that my sister is no risk to Canada as a visitor. Thank you for your time in reading my letter. Thank you for your commitment as well as IRCC Minister. I am very fortunate to have an immigrant Minister of Immigration who can appreciate my concerns of living far away from family.

With Gratitude,

Silantoi Kisoso

Twitter: @RuralEnthusiast